

## STRANGLED AND ROBBED AT HOME.

Mrs. Phipps Assaulted by  
Two Men on the Steps  
to Her Flat.

Given Ether and Kicked When  
She Partially Recovered  
Consciousness.

One of Her Assaultants Identified with  
a Beggar Who Had Lost  
Two Fingers.

POLICE TELL OF SUSPICIONS.

The Woman's Narrative Repeated and Cor-  
roborated by Other Persons and the  
Evidence of Injuries Which  
She Suffered.

Mrs. Mildred A. Phipps, of No. 535 East  
Seventh-street, was unconscious  
from 4:30 p. m. Saturday until 9 a. m. Sun-  
day. When she recovered she told the fol-  
lowing story of robbery and assault in the  
hall of the house in which she lives:

"She lives in the third floor east side flat.  
The west side flat has been vacant for some  
time. She started to go out Saturday after-  
noon, and saw a man standing in the door  
of the vacant flat. She returned for her  
pocketbook, and said to her servant, Char-  
lotte Andrews, who opened the door:

"How foolish of me to go away without  
that book. It contains all the money I've  
got."

When she was on the last flight of stairs  
descending, with the pocketbook in her  
hand, she heard the steps of two persons  
behind her. As she was going slowly and  
they seemed in a hurry, Mrs. Phipps turned  
her back to the banister to let the unseen  
persons pass. She was seized by the right  
hand, and at the same instant one of the

robbers, except that the man who had  
vaulted over the banister after her pocket-  
book and who put the handkerchief to her  
face lacked the two middle fingers of his  
left hand. It was recalled that one week  
ago two men went from door to door in  
the flat begging. They seemed to be strong  
and able-bodied, and one of the men had  
lost the two middle fingers from his left  
hand. He was the smaller of the two.  
When Mrs. Phipps saw them she offered  
them bread. They said they wanted money,  
but got none.

A MAN WANTED.

The police have sent out the following  
description:

Arrest a man about 5 feet 6 inches tall, a  
German, weighing 150 pounds, dressed in  
faded brown overcoat, dark clothes and brown  
hat. Dark complexion and mustache. Hair  
like a tramp. Two middle fingers missing from  
left hand.

The police questioned Mrs. Phipps closely,  
but her story did not deviate in the  
least. Then they saw Miss Andrews, the  
little girl who first found Mrs. Phipps  
unconscious, and the janitress. Their  
stories were the same.

Mrs. Phipps repeated the story last evening  
in presence of her husband, Miss  
Andrews and several others. When she  
heard a suggestion from the police that  
she had not been given ether, she said:

"Why should I say they used it if they  
did not? I would know the smell of it  
anywhere, and I knew that if I inhaled  
it there was no hope for me. I tried to  
avoid doing so as long as I could, but had  
to do so ultimately. I do not know what  
made them linger in the hall after they  
had carried me to the cellar steps, unless  
they had difficulty in getting the rings off  
my fingers.

"I have an idea that they will never  
catch the men, but if they do it will be  
found that I left some marks on one of  
them. I am still very sick, and my right  
side aches so that I can scarcely move.  
The doctor told me after I recovered  
consciousness that I had remained on the  
stone steps where I was found for half  
an hour longer than I would have been  
had I not been so weak.

THE POLICE THEORY.

At the East Sixty-seventh Street Police  
Station last night the sergeant in charge  
stated that no arrests had been made, al-  
though the precinct detectives were hard

## CRUSHED TO DEATH IN A THEATRE.

Fire Breaks Out and the Terror-  
Stricken Audience Held  
as in a Trap.

A Large Number Trampled to Death  
During the Mad Rush for  
the Exits.

43 BODIES ALREADY TAKEN OUT.

Many Who Are Known to Have Been in the  
Theatre Are Still Missing—The Build-  
ing Was of Wood, and the  
Fire Spread Rapidly.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 20.—A despatch from  
Ekaterinburg, capital of the government of  
that name in South Russia, gives the de-  
tails of a fire that occurred in a theatre  
there causing large loss of life.

The fire was discovered while a perform-  
ance was going on. The spectators became  
panic-stricken and made a wild rush for  
the exits. Many of them were knocked  
down, trampled under foot and rendered  
unconscious. The building was of wood  
and the fire spread with great rapidity.

Before all the terror-stricken people could  
get outside, the theatre was a mass of  
flames. The scene outside was terrible.  
Those who had relatives or friends in the  
theatre rushed about, wildly crying for  
help to save them.

Every effort was made to save those in  
the burning building, but the heat was so  
intense that for some time it was impos-  
sible to approach the structure. Even had  
it been possible to approach, the efforts to  
save those inside would have undoubtedly  
been fruitless, as they were probably suffo-  
cated before the fire reached them.

After the ruins had cooled off sufficiently  
a search was commenced for the dead.

Forty-nine bodies have already been  
taken out. A number of persons who are  
known to have been in the theatre are  
still missing, and there is scarcely a doubt  
that their bodies will be found later in the  
ruins.

BOUND TO DOWN PLATT.

His Foes Take Steps to Form a Separate  
Republican County Organi-  
zation.

Steps were taken last night to form a  
separate Republican county organization by  
the Brookfield-Bills-Milbolland combination.  
A Committee of Five Hundred was named  
for the purpose of demanding that the  
enrollment held by the County Committee  
be purged. While the leaders deny that  
they have any intention of bolting the  
party, they make no secret of the fact that  
they favor another committee.

Among those named on the committee  
announced last night are: John E. Mil-  
bolland, Cornelius N. Bills, William Brook-  
field, Police Commissioner Theodore Roose-  
velt, City Chamberlain Anson G. McCook,  
Public Works Commissioner Charles H. T.  
Coville, Major John B. Hayes, Paul D.  
Cravath, Charles J. Norcross, Richard  
Devoes, Thomas P. Edwards, Westbury,  
John J. Collins, Dock Commissioner Ed-  
ward C. O'Brien, Stephen N. Simonson and  
others.

A MONSTER MASS-MEETING.

The Committee of Twenty-five will hold  
a meeting this evening at the Windsor  
Hotel to make arrangements for the new  
committee, which will hold a meeting early  
next week to be followed by a monster  
mass-meeting at Cooper Union later in the  
week.

The anti-machine Republicans of the  
Twenty-fifth Assembly District met last  
night at the State Club and formed a new  
district organization. John R. McKelvey  
presided and thirty-one of the thirty-eight  
election districts were represented. Or-  
ganization will be formed in every Assem-  
bly district in the city.

Edward Lauterbach, president of the Re-  
publican County Committee, last night ap-  
peared before the House to review the  
constitution. Abraham Gruber, chair-  
man; L. Van Allen, Charles H. Murray,  
James W. Bidwell, Samuel J. B. Bidwell,  
James W. Perry and T. C. Campbell. The  
committee will meet on Friday evening and  
will consider the following resolutions and  
amendments that are contemplated. The  
question of raising funds will not be over-  
sight, and the committee will also be  
being members of the committee will also  
be considered, as will also the election  
district plan and the basis of representation.

FOUR DELEGATES AT LARGE.

The Republican State Convention to  
select four delegates-at-large to the St.  
Louis Convention will probably be held in  
this city, at Carnegie Music Hall, on  
March 28. Thomas P. Edwards, of the  
State leaders favor this plan. The dele-  
gates will be "Boss" Platt, Chauncey M.  
Depew, Warner Miller and Edward Lauter-  
bach.

The Republican Club elected the fol-  
lowing officers last night: President,  
Cornelius N. Bills; Vice-president, John  
Thomas; John Proctor Clarke and E. W.  
Bloomfield; secretaries, Jared G. Bald-  
win, John J. Collins and George W. En-  
gler; J. Edgar Leyscraft; Executive Com-  
mittee, Elihu Root, James P. Foster,  
George W. Enghel, and others.

A resolution proposed by "Abbe" Gruber,  
the Platt leader, to lay over all resolu-  
tions for ten days before taking action was  
defeated.

POLICE TO END A ROMANCE.

Miss Maud Bacon, of Mount Vernon,  
Answers a "Personal" and Has  
to Seek Protection.

Mount Vernon, N. Y., Jan. 20.—John  
Haines, a well-known New York piano  
manufacturer, resides at No. 142 Primrose  
avenue, Mount Vernon. Miss Maud Bacon,  
an intelligent and pretty girl, is a member  
of the family, being related to Mrs. Haines.  
Like most young girls, she is romantic,  
and lately answered a "personal" in a  
New York newspaper. She gave her proper  
name and address.

A young man, who gave his name as  
Frank E. Sawyer, telegraphed her and  
came up to see her while Mr. and Mrs.  
Haines were away from home. He said  
he was delighted with his new acquain-  
tance, and that he would like to see her  
and tried to dissuade May, but he would not  
take his leave, although Miss Bacon re-  
fused to see him. He subsequently sent  
many letters to Miss Bacon, asking her to  
meet him in New York. None of these let-  
ters were noticed, and Miss Bacon con-  
fessed her troubles to Mr. and Mrs. Haines,  
and by a ruse Mr. Haines secured from May the  
letter written in answer to the "personal."  
After that May came to Mount Vernon  
and lay in wait for Miss Bacon. He fol-  
lowed her to New York, and tried to inter-  
rupt her in that city, and she had to ap-  
peal to a policeman for protection. A spe-  
cial policeman is now guarding the Haines  
residence, awaiting the return of Frank E.  
Sawyer.

## OPM HARBOR LEAD TO SAWYER'S DEATH.

The Gifted Young Composer  
Ends His Life by Taking  
Laudanum.

He Had Become a Slave to the  
Drug and Thought It Could  
Not Kill Him.

NOT A SUICIDE THE CORONER SAYS.

Trying to Overcome His Craving He  
Yielded Again and Swallowed Two  
Ounces of Laudanum, Dying Just  
After His Parents Arrived.

Frank E. Sawyer, poet and musical com-  
poser, died yesterday afternoon at No. 636  
Lexington avenue, from the effects of lau-  
danum self-administered. He took two  
ounces of the drug, but notwithstanding  
this, Coroner Hoerber, who investigated the  
case, declared last night that there was  
not the slightest suspicion that the poison  
had been taken with suicidal intent.

Half an hour before his death young Saw-  
yer—he was only twenty-four years of age  
—rang up a messenger boy and sent him to  
Weber's pharmacy, at Fifty-sixth street  
and Lexington avenue, for four ounces of  
laudanum. The young man had been taking  
narcotics for the last six months to over-  
come insomnia, from which he suffered  
very much. For this reason no suspicion  
was aroused at the drug store when he de-  
manded a large quantity of the drug, which  
he took in the form of capsules.

Some ten or fifteen minutes after the  
messenger had left Sawyer's room the ser-  
vant girl was called up and bidden to wash  
the label from the bottle. She did as Saw-  
yer had requested, but if his intent was  
to conceal the source whence the poison  
had been obtained the removal of the label  
was of no avail, for the druggist's name was  
blown in the bottle.

The servant noticed that Mr. Sawyer  
was suffering intensely, although he tried  
to conceal his pain. He called for medical  
assistance, when the parents of the young  
man entered the room. They  
tried to restore him to a normal condition  
in the northern part of this State, for the  
purpose of visiting Frank, who was their  
only son.

SOON BECAME UNCONSCIOUS.

Before they had been able to exchange  
greetings Frank sank back upon his bed  
and became unconscious. His lips became  
purple and he began to breathe stertorously.  
The parents and the servants were greatly  
alarmed, and it was some minutes before  
they could recover their presence of mind  
sufficiently to take measures for the young  
man's relief. They exhausted every  
home remedy, but to no avail. He was re-  
moved to a hospital, but he died before he  
could be restored to a normal condition.  
It was only when the breathing grew fainter  
that they thought themselves of calling  
for medical assistance.

Dr. Henry Herman, of No. 627 Lexington  
avenue, was summoned, but when he ar-  
rived the young man had been dead for  
some time. His limbs were rigid and the  
action of his heart was no longer per-  
ceptible.

"My services," he said, "can be of no  
use here. The young man is dead."  
The grief of the parents was heartrend-  
ing. They had been told by a friend that  
Frank was an exceedingly good son and  
had been declared by musicians to be  
of great promise and gifted  
with American composers.

There was only one fault which the  
young man was said to have, and that was  
his inordinate fondness for narcotics.  
His case was almost identical with that of  
the Queen of the Opium Eaters, "Confessions  
of an English Opium Eater."

After having had a tooth extracted last  
April young Sawyer experienced terrible  
pain in his head, and an external applica-  
tion seemed to relieve it and he was ad-  
vised by a dentist to try a narcotic. He  
took a small dose of the drug, and he de-  
parted almost instantly. But no sooner  
had the effect of the opium worn off than  
the pain returned, and he was obliged to  
take his hourly refuge from agony.

CONTRACTED THE OPIUM HABIT.

Gradually the aching pain became com-  
pletely healed. The pain entirely disap-  
peared, but the opium habit had taken  
time to become formed, and the young man  
found it impossible to shake it off. The  
quantity of the drug he took was daily in-  
creased.

The sensations were pleasant,  
like those which Sawyer's great English  
prototype experienced, but in a short time,  
the effects were terrible. Sleep became  
impossible, unless he took a dose of  
opium in some form or other. Bromide,  
sulfonal, and laudanum were constantly  
resorted to, but they did not relieve him  
at that stage at which he could take almost  
incredible quantities of any of these drugs.

His nervous system was, of course, shat-  
tered, and his friends vainly pleaded with  
him to desist. He refused, however, and  
continued to take the drug. He was con-  
vinced that he would cure himself of the  
habit in time, and he continued to take  
the drug until he was no longer equal to the  
task.

After abstaining from opiates for a day  
he was unable to get on, and he was obliged  
to use more eagerly than ever.  
He was occupying one room with his friend,  
Albert G. Thibault, and he was obliged to  
leave Mr. Thibault's room last Saturday  
to go to a sanitarium in Brooklyn, but  
Sawyer stood it only one day. He then re-  
turned to his room and promised himself  
that he would break himself voluntarily  
of the habit if he would only not com-  
pulsively to go through the course of treat-  
ment at a sanitarium.

TOOK AN OVERDOSE.

Yesterday morning he got up and began to  
dress, but afterward changed his mind and  
went back to bed. When Mr. Thibault  
saw Sawyer was sitting up in bed, was in  
a good mood, and was dressed in expres-  
sing his belief that he would experience no  
great trouble in conquering the opium habit.  
He was, however, deceived. Sawyer was  
called in. He and Mr. Thibault went over the  
history of the case very carefully, and con-  
cluded the young man had not intended to  
commit suicide, but had recognized, when it  
was too late, that he had taken an overdose.  
Feeling that he was about to die, he desired  
to do the druggist he had sold the laudanum  
the final justice of at least destroying the  
evidence of his infamy.

"Young Sawyer," said Coroner Hoerber,  
"was habitually addicted to the use of nar-  
cotics. He used to boast that no poison  
concocted of opium could ever kill him.  
He was a very brave man, and he was  
of the subject and had read and re-read  
Dr. Ansie's work on narcotics."

"In order to make a thorough study  
of the drug as it manifests itself in the eyes,  
Sawyer would rub them with belladonna,  
and he would do this in the most care-  
less manner. He was a very brave man,  
and he was of the subject and had read and re-read  
Dr. Ansie's work on narcotics."

One of the songs of young Sawyer which  
has acquired celebrity is "Across the  
Sea." It is a love poem, written with equal  
facility in English and French.

LEGISLATORS TAKE IT EASY.

The Senate and Assembly Transact Unim-  
portant Business Then Adjourn.

## PRECISELY WHAT DUNRAVEN SAID.

Further Portions of His Testi-  
mony Before the Com-  
mittee of Inquiry.

Contradicted by Latham Fish in Re-  
spect to What Was Said  
After the Race.

CHOAETE'S CROSS-EXAMINATION.

The Noises That the Earl Heard on the  
Defender Were Made by the Cut-  
ting of Pig Lead Ballast  
Already on Board.

The findings of the New York Yacht  
Club's committee of inquiry into the Earl  
of Dunraven's charges against the De-  
fender syndicate of sportsmen has not been  
made public, but a further portion of the  
testimony, on which the judgment of the  
investigators will be based, was published.  
This abstract shows that Dunraven's as-  
sertions were founded upon misleading ob-  
servations by himself, members of his  
crew and his particular friend, Arthur  
Glennie, the rear commodore of the Royal  
Portsmouth Yacht Club; H. M. Kersey, an  
employee of the White Star Line, and Sal-  
laker Batsey. Dunraven said that De-  
fender and Valkyrie lay close beside each  
other in the Erie Basin on August 31.

He carefully noted the trim, line of im-  
mersion and general appearance of the cup de-  
fender. He saw her again on September  
6, when the yachts were in the basin for  
the purpose of being measured. He then  
occupied the same relative position on the  
Valkyrie as on August 31.

Looking at the port side of the Defender,  
Dunraven testified that he had noticed an  
outlet hole about an inch in diameter  
nearly amidships and cut by the water  
line a little above its base. He also noticed  
the line of the bronze plating and the bot-  
tom bolt. Mr. Watson, the Valkyrie's cap-  
tain, was on the Defender when she was  
measured, and on his return to the Eng-  
lish yacht Lord Dunraven pointed out what  
he had himself noted. On the night of  
September 6 both boats lay inside the  
Horseshoe at Sandy Hook, the Hattie  
Palmer alongside the Defender and the  
City of Bridgeport, on which Lord Dun-  
raven slept, a short distance from the  
anchorage ground of the American yacht.

DEEPER IN THE WATER, HE SAID.

On the following morning, at the request  
of Mr. Glennie, Lord Dunraven examined  
the Defender through glasses, and was  
convinced that she was more deeply im-  
mersed than when she was measured. Lord  
Dunraven took his representative, Mr.  
Henderson, over to the Defender in a gig  
at 9 o'clock and saw that the outlet hole on  
the port side was no longer visible, and  
on examining the position of the bottom bolt  
and the bronze plating believed as he did  
on December 27 that the yacht was three  
or four inches deeper in the water than  
when she was measured by Mr. Hyslop.

When Latham A. Fish, the representative  
of the Defender, went on board the Val-  
kyrie as she was being towed out to the  
starting line, Lord Dunraven informed him  
of his suspicions that the Defender was  
sailing a foot longer on the water line  
than her measured length. The Earl asked  
Mr. Fish what the Cup Committee put a  
representative on each of the yachts and  
keep them there until they were remeas-  
ured, and also asked that the lead water  
lines be plainly marked. Mr. Fish prom-  
ised to lay his request before the commit-  
tee, and immediately after the race Dun-  
raven put him on the committee boat, and  
then lay alongside to receive any possible  
communication, but getting none, and dark-  
ness coming on, he went to Hay Ridge  
with the Valkyrie. The next day the  
yachts were remeasured and their lead  
water lines were found practically un-  
changed.

Such in substance is the matter con-  
tained in the affidavit of Lord Dunraven  
read to the investigating committee by his  
attorney, Mr. Askwith.

After he had concluded the reading Mr.  
Askwith called the Earl to the stand, but  
did not obtain any further testimony of  
value to the case. He said, though, that  
his belief regarding the rebalancing of  
Defender had nothing whatever to do with  
his suspicion that the Defender was sail-  
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her measured length. He said that he  
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